(a) whether Government has received proposals regarding the change of ownership/acquiring of stake and change of Directors of TV channels;

(b) if so, the complete details of requests/proposals received from TV channels during the last two years; and

(c) the policy with regard to change of equity pattern and appointment/replacement of Directors on the Board by TV channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) As per clause 5.8 of the uplinking guidelines, the companies are required to ensure their continued eligibility as applicable through out the period of permission and adhere to all the terms and conditions of the permission. As per clause 5.10, it is obligatory on the part of the companies to take prior permission from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting before effecting any change in the CEO/Board of Directors. In so far as news and current affairs TV channels are concerned, it is prescribed under clause 3.1.5. That it will be obligatory on the part of the company to intimate the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the changes in Foreign Direct Investment in the company, within 15 days of such change. While effecting changes in the shareholding patterns, it shall ensure its continued compliance to Clause 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 of the guidelines. Further, clause 3.1.8 of the uplinking guidelines prescribes that at least 3/4th of the Directors on the Board of Directors of the company and all key Executives and Editorial staff shall be resident Indians and clause 3.1.9 lays down that the representation on the Board of Directors of the company shall as far as possible be proportionate to the shareholding.

The applicant company, irrespective of its ownership, equity structure or management control, would be eligible to seek permission for non-news and current affairs TV channels under the uplinking guidelines.

Whereas, the downlinking guidelines stipulate that the entity applying for permission for downlinking a channel, uplinked from abroad. (*i.e.* Applicant Company), must be a company registered in India under the Indian Companies Act, 1956, irrespective of its equity structure, foreign ownership or management control. As per clause 5.11 of the downlinking guidelines, the applicant company shall give intimation to Ministry of I and B regarding change in the directorship, key executives or foreign direct investment in the company, within 15 days of such a change taking place. It shall also obtain security clearance for such changes in its directors and key executives.

TV channel for healthcare

1105. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that separate television channel for almost every field have already been launched;

(b) whether Government has plans to launch a healthcare channel for creating awareness among the public especially for the people of rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. An exclusive health channel is not presently under consideration of Doordarshan. However, Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan Kendras are extensively producing programmes on a large number of issues including health issues for urban as well as rural audiences. These programmes also cover subjects like Yoga, Meditation and Health Tips through spots, interviews, discussions, features on diseases like diabetes, heart problems, eye problems and other physical fitness issues.

Doordarshan Kendras are mounting special programme campaigns on National Health Programmes and issues like Polio, Malaria, Goiter, Cataract, TB etc. and also telecasting programmes on National Rural Health Mission, Total Sanitation, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Mission and Integrated Child Development Services every week. Doordarshan Kendras are also producing and telecasting programmes on Children's Health issues, mother and child care in coordination with UNICEF and NGOs.

Cases of luring unemployed persons

†1106. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some agents lure the unemployed persons in the country by promising them good job and high salary in foreign countries and abandon them after reaching the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the total number of cases which have come to the notice of Government so far;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to make or bring any rule or law to control such cheats; and

(e) if so, the time by which such rule or law would be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Complaints are received from time to time regarding non deployment on promised jobs, non-payment or reduced/delayed payment of salaries, adverse working conditions, denial of appropriate medical facilities, abandoning the emigrants after reaching the foreign countries and poor living conditions, etc.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.